

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaido et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,938,869, hereinafter Kaido '869). In response, Applicant amended independent claim 1 to include the steps of storing the rolled bodies at least in one storage place, and mounting the stored rolled bodies on unwinding units, and respectfully traverse the rejection based on these amendments.

In the outstanding rejection on page 2, the Examiner acknowledges in the last paragraph that Kaido '869 does not suggest winding in rolls corresponding to different nominal rim diameters. Nonetheless, the Examiner asserts that it is obvious to switch a single roll corresponding to a first nominal rim diameter to another roll corresponding to a second nominal rim diameter. However, Kaido '869 fails to disclose or suggest storing rolled bodies in at least one storage place, as now recited in amended claim 1, in combination with mounting the stored rolled bodies on unwinding units located at feeding positions for different nominal rim diameters, to thereby feed the stored rolled bodies to a tire building machine.

In contrast, claim 1 now calls for the steps of storing the rolled bodies at least in one storage place, and mounting the stored rolled bodies on an unwinding units located at feeding positions for different nominal rim diameters for feeding the stored rolled bodies to a tire building machine. Unlike Kaido '869, the present invention advantageously has a storing method that makes it possible to sufficiently store rolled bodies for different respective sizes corresponding to different nominal rim diameters. Moreover, mounting of the different sizes of the rolled bodies on the unwinding units can be achieved without a shortage of different sized rolled bodies, and prevent any

loss of productivity due to a shortage of the rolled bodies. In Kaido '869, it is contemplated to use a single mounted roll. Therefore, Kaido '869 cannot switch between rolls of different sizes during production without changing the existing rolled body to a different nominal rim diameter. However, since in the present invention has rolled bodies having different nominal rim diameters already mounted, production can be improved since the rolled bodies need not be changed every time there is a change in a nominal rim diameter. Kaido '869 requires continuous remounting of a rolled body with such nominal rim diameter changes. Since Kaido '869 fails to disclose or suggest the above features, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claims 1-4 and 7-9 is respectfully requested.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaido '869, and further in view at least one of Hashimura et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0033557) and Kaido et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,136,123, hereinafter Kaido '123), and optionally in view of Ota (JP 2002-103471). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the reasons recited above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 1.

Since claim 5 depends upon claim 1, this claim includes all the features of its independent claim plus other additional features. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 5 is in condition for allowance for the reasons recited above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 1, and also because the Hashimura, Kaido '123, and Ota references fail to overcome the deficiencies of Kaido '869. Accordingly, any combination of these references also fails to overcome the deficiencies noted above. For this reason, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claim 5 is respectfully requested.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,
GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

Customer No. 24978

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300 South Wacker Drive

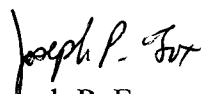
Suite 2500

Chicago, Illinois 60606

Telephone: (312) 360-0080

Facsimile: (312) 360-9315

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By: 
Joseph P. Fox
Registration No. 41,760